

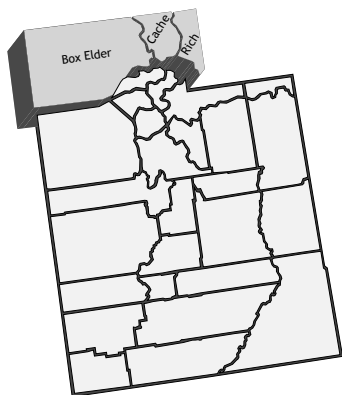
Workforce News



A quarterly publication of the Department of Workforce Services: issued December 2009

Bear River: Box Elder, Cache, Rich

jobs.utah.gov



The American Community Survey (ACS) – 2008 Update is out for Cache County



Inside:

- **Box Elder:** Job losses reach nearly 10 percent with construction and manufacturing hard hit.
- **Cache:** Unemployment rising as job cuts continue.
- **Rich:** Employment sliding and unemployment rising slightly.



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

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So what's the ACS? It's an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that takes a statistical portrait of the characteristics of the population of an area. The ACS actually compliments the 10-year census, or should we say the 10-year census supplements the ACS? Starting with the 2010 Census, there will no longer be a "long form" distributed to a random sample of U.S. households asking extensive economic and demographic questions. The yearly ACS replaces the long form as the supplement to the decennial complete count.

The Census form you get in April of 2010 will be short and sweet with only 10 questions for each person in the household. The topics include type of housing you live in, number of people living there, and age, race, and sex of each person.

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American Community Survey (continued)

So where does all that detailed characteristic information on social, economic, housing, and demography come from? It comes from the sample of individuals in the ACS. Topics in the ACS cover education, marital status, fertility, place of birth citizenship, year of entry into the county, language spoken at home, disability status, income, employment status, occupation, industry, commuting, housing, age, race, Hispanic origin, and others. The sample collects the detail of characteristic data, not the Census.

The ACS and Geography

Because the ACS is a sample survey, it does not provide data for all areas every year. Currently, only those areas (counties in this case) with populations of 65,000 or more are surveyed for release of annual data. In Utah there are only six counties that meet this criterion: Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington, and Weber.

For smaller counties—those with 20,000 populations—the ACS provides a 3-year average. The most current release of data for counties of this size covered the years 2006 to 2008. Starting in 2010, estimates will be provided for areas with less than 20,000 and will be based on a 5-year average of 2005-2009. As the survey matures, more and more geographic detail will become available. For now the annual 2008 data is available for Cache County only. The three-year average will be available for Box Elder at the end of October 2009.

Cache County ACS

Median Age

Big differences in the age of the population were evident in the data. The median age nationally in 2008 was 36.9 years. In Cache County the median age was 24.8 years. The state median age was the lowest in the nation at 28.7 years. One reason Cache County's median age is so low is because of the young age of college

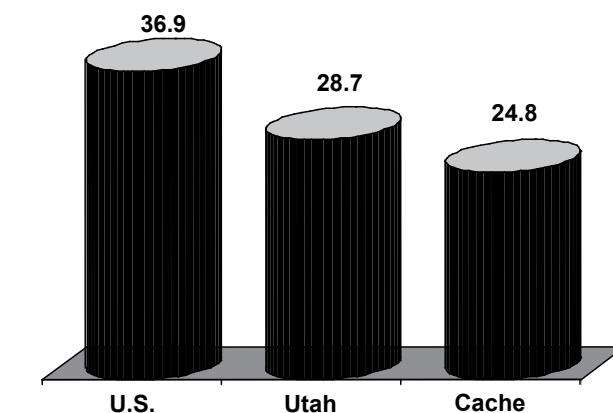
students and the number of college students relative to Cache County's total population.

Family Size

The population of Cache County resides in households or families. Family is a sub-set of households. The average family size in 2008 was 3.81 persons and the average

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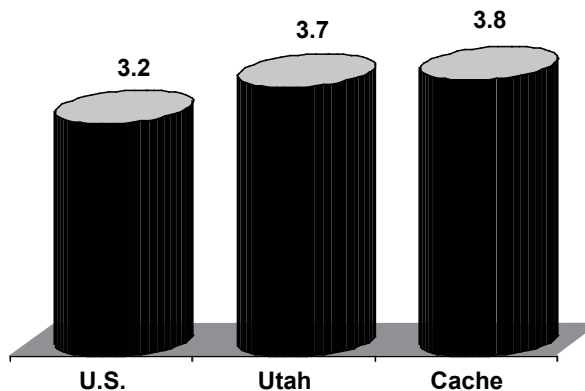
2008 Median Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

2008 Family Size

Number of Persons



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

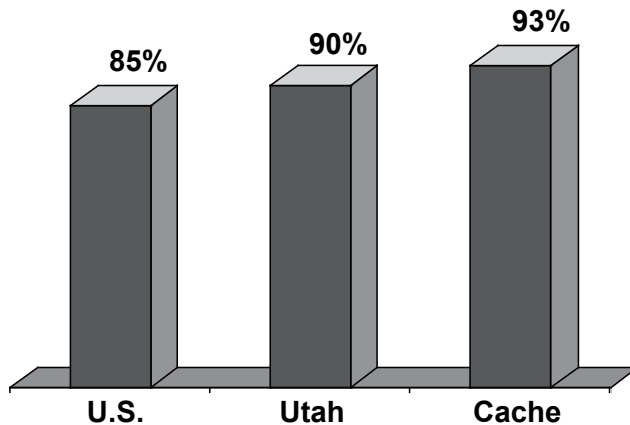
American Community Survey (continued)

household size was 3.27 persons. Both of these measures of size are larger in comparison to the state and the nation. Average family size in the U.S. is 2.62 persons, or a third smaller than families in Cache County.

Educational Attainment
Cache County's educational attainment is significantly higher than the state and the nation. This is because of Utah State University. The percent of persons aged 25 and over

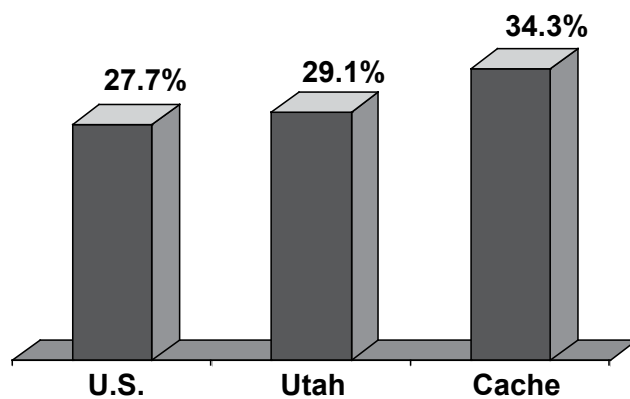
with at least a bachelor's degree in Cache County was 34.3 percent. That compares to a national rate of just 27.7 percent. The state's comparable percentage was 29.1 percent. High school graduates as a percent of age 25+ population in Cache County was reported at 92.8 percent, well above the U.S. rate of 85.0 percent.

Adults* With at Least a High School Diploma 2008



* Population 25 years and older.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

Adults* With at Least a Bachelor's Degree 2008



* Population 25 years and older.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Median Family Income

On the economic front, median family income for Cache County was \$56,042. This was below the state level of \$65,226 and the national level of \$63,366. Average family income in the county was \$74,711, which was nearly \$5,000 below the state average of \$80,061. The national average family income was \$83,351

Median Earnings and Gender

Median earnings for workers in the county in 2008 were \$20,822, well below the \$26,226 level of the state and below the \$29,868 figure for the nation. Earnings by gender for full-time year-round workers revealed that female workers in Cache County

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For more info:

You can get occupational wage rates for individual occupations and wage tables showing all the survey occupations at:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoOccwage.do>

American Community Survey (continued)


made 70 percent of what men did. This was about the same as the 69 percent figure for the state but measurably below the 78 percent level for the nation.

Ethnic Diversity

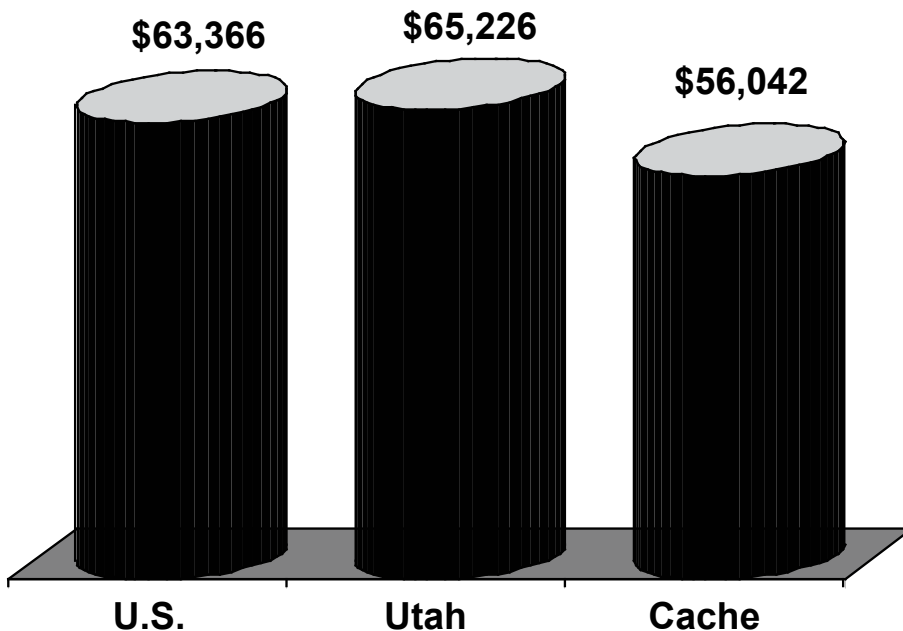
Utah is becoming more ethnically diverse. In 2008, whites accounted for exactly three-fourths (75 percent) of the U.S. population. In Utah, 91 percent were white, and in Cache County 94 percent were white. The largest and fastest growing racial/ethnic group is Hispanic. Over 15 percent of the 304 million persons

in the U.S. are Hispanic. That figure for Utah is about one in eight, or 12 percent, and in Cache County it's 9.2 percent.

This has been just a quick snapshot of the ACS Survey. Much more data is available, and data on Box Elder County will be out by the time this newsletter is distributed.

To explore more about the American Community Survey go to the Census ACS website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html> 

2008 Median Family Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey.

What's Up?

"Alliant Techsystems' presence in Utah has remained steadfast over the years, even as its employee count ebbed and flowed with the availability of federal space and defense contracts. The company recently handed pink slips to 550 of its Utah employees. The action was the result of reduced spending by the federal government on space and defense programs that are about to run their course, such as the Space Shuttle and the Minuteman III missile."

-Salt Lake Tribune

"Utah State University President Albrecht made a number of major announcements, including a second employee furlough and the possibility of a new college and new school at USU. In addition, the president announced that all USU employees will have to take a second furlough between July 2010 and July 2011. This furlough will differ from the one taken in the spring."

-Herald Journal

County News

Box Elder County News

The county lost another 2,000-plus jobs in the June 2009 to June 2008 comparison. Joblessness crept up from last year by a point and a half. The unemployment rate in September 2009 was reported at 5.9 percent. That's up from the 4.3 percent in September 2008. There were 2,070 fewer jobs in June 2009 than in June 2008. Three-fourths of the decline was in construction (-200) and manufacturing (-1,340) as the county felt the effects of the economic malaise.

Job loss was spread pretty much across all industries. The only industries adding employment were finance (25) and healthcare (95). Consumer spending during second quarter 2009 was down by 8.3 percent from a year ago. Statewide spending was off 10.6 percent. Building activity declined by 29 percent, both in terms of permitted dwelling units and in the total valuation of construction, comparing the first half of 2008 with 2009. The recession continues to squeeze the economy in Box Elder County with no real bright light on the horizon.

Cache County News

Cache County also took a 2,320 job hit during the second quarter. Unemployment jumped from 2.7 percent in September 2008 to 4.3 percent for the same month in 2009. In June there were 2,320 fewer jobs than in June of 2008. That's a 4.6 percent loss. Nearly 1,500 of those 2,000-plus jobs lost were in construction (-525) and manufacturing (-960). Other industry sectors shedding employment were wholesale and retail trade (-180 jobs each), finance (-165), and business services (-580). Accommodations added 110 positions and healthcare added about 90 slots. Government in general held steady, with state government losing 113 and local government adding about 120. Spending in Cache County slipped 3.0 percent in the second quarter compared to a year ago. Building also was down in the January to August comparison of 2009 compared to 2008. Permitted

units fell 10.8 percent and total valuation of construction activity was off 24.7 percent. Virtually all indicators reflected the recession's grip on the local economy.

Rich County News

The county lost jobs at a 7.0-percent pace between June 2008 and June 2009. That's a loss of 65 positions. Losses were spread across construction (-44) and business services (-28). New jobs were added in healthcare (16) and local government (10). The unemployment rate increased from 2.3 percent in September of 2008 to 3.5 percent in 2009 (September). Consumer spending held steady in the county between the second quarter of 2008 and 2009. Construction activity improved in the number of dwelling units permitted (up 38 percent to 47) during the first eight months of 2009 where the building valuation actually declined by some 25 percent. Even with unemployment about the same, the county feels the impact of the recession through job losses.

For more employment information about your county go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo> and select your county, then go to Labor Market Indicators in the right-hand margin. **WFN**

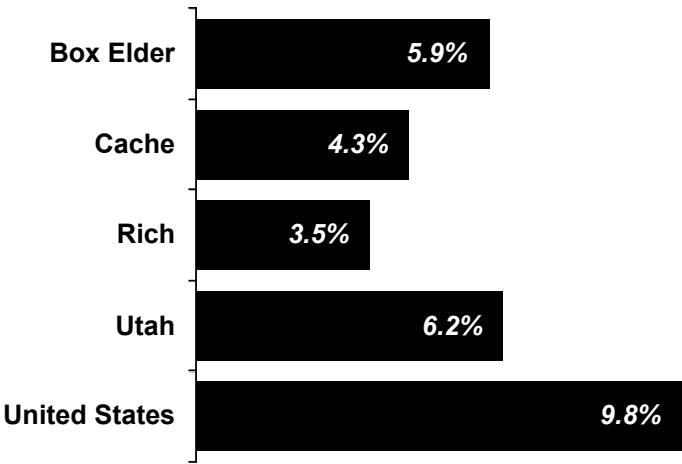
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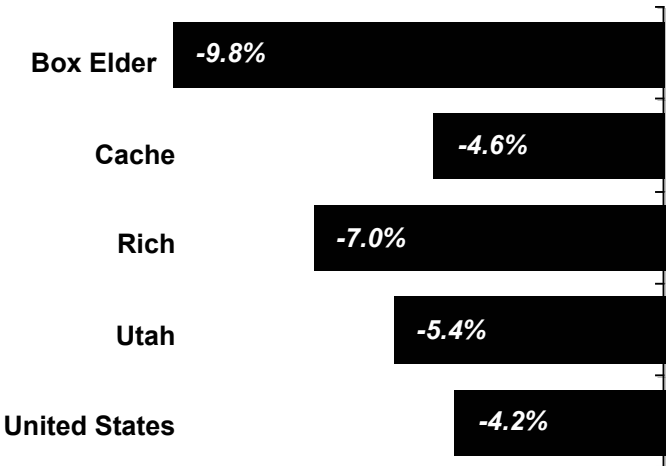
and select your county, then go to **Labor Market Indicators** in the right-hand margin.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
September 2009



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs
June 2008 to June 2009



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.